

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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S E C R E T SANA 2485

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE
SUBJ: SAUDI PERSPECTIVE ON ABDAL ALIM'S ESCAPADE

BEGIN SUMMARY: SAUDI REPRESENTATIVE IN SANA IS
EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH WAY ABDAL ALIM WAS PUT DOWN BY
YEMENI GOVERNMENT. HE BELIEVEW SAUDI SUPPORT WHICH
PROVIDED TO YARG LAYS BASIS FOR EXPANDED YAR-SAUDI
COOPERATION IN MILITARY MATTERS. HE ALSO SEES NEW
BASIS FOR GHASHMI'S POPULARITY. END SUMMARY.

1. SAUDI MILITARY ATTACHE TO SANA, LT. COL. SALIH HUDAYAN,
TOLD DATT AND MYSELF TODAY, MAY 24, THAT HE WAS
EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH SUCCESS OF YARG IN DEALING WITH
ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM. HUDAYAN NOTED WITH PARTICULAR
SATISFACTION THAT GHASHMI HAD RESISTED ADVICE FROM SOME
ARMY QUARTERS TO STRIKE EARLY AND HARD AND HAD INSTEAD
LET POLITICIANS FROM HUIJARIYYA REGION, LIKE PRIME MINISTER
ABDAL AZIZ ABDAL GHANI AND AHMAD ABDO SAID, DO AND
OFFER ALL THEY COULD TO SETTLE MATTER PEACEFULLY. HUDAYAN
CLAIMS THAT SOUTHERNERS IN END GAVE AGREEMENT TO ARMY
TO STRIKE AND, IN PROCESS, MAINTAINED FRAGILE NORTH-SOUTH
COHESION. SALIH GOES ON TO SAY THAT WHEN PRESIDENT
WAS FLOWN DOWN TO HUIJARIYYA DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY (ON
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SAUDI HELICOPTERS), AND TOURED SUBDUED AREA PROMISING
ROADS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS, HE WAS
RECEIVED WITH GENUINE WARMTH, ALMOST AS LIBERATOR.

2. HUDAYAN IN EUPHORIC ABOUT ROLE OF YEMEN AIR FORCE
IN OPERATION, NOTING THAT AUGUSTA-BELL HELICOPTERS FROM
SAUDI ARABIA HAD BEEN USED TO RESUPPLY GOVERNMENT

TROOPS AND SPOT ENEMY FORMATIONS FOR MIGS TO HIT. MIGS WERE PILOTED BY MEN FROM HUIARIYYA, NOTED HUDAYAN. (LIKE FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ AND MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDO SAID, HUDAYAN SAID THAT USG MUST ARRANGE FOR YAR AIR FORCE COMMANDER, MUHAMMAD DYFULLAH, TO VISIT U.S. MORE IN SEPTTEL.)

3. HUDAYAN CLAIMED THAT ACTION INFLICTED 68 CASUALTIES ON DISSIDENTS AND 2 ON YEMENI FORCES AND CAUSED NO RPT NO CIVILIAN DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. HOWEVER, HE NOTED WITH CONSIDERABLE DISTRESS REPORTS TODAY THAT BODIES OF SEVEN MORE ABDAL ALIM HOSTAGES HAD BEEN FOUND IN HASTILY DUG GRAVES THIS MORNING, 24 MAY, IN ZURAYQA AREA WHERE ABDAL ALIM HAD BURNED HIS VEHICLES BEFORE CROSSING BORDER INTO PDRY. SEVEN INCLUDED MANSOUR SHA'IF AND MUHAMMAD SHARABI, BOTH NOTABLE HUIARIYYA LEADERS, AND TAIZI MERCHANT, AHMAD HUIAIMI, WHO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED BECOME GOVERNOR OF TAIZ PROVINCE. HUDAYAN ACKNOWLEDGED STORIES WHICH CONTINUING TO CIRCULATE IN SANA TO EFFECT THAT ABDAL ALIM IS STILL IN ZURAYQA AREA, BUT SAYS THAT HE HAS BEEN TOLD (AS HAVE WE) THAT PDRY HAS OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED TO YAR THAT ABDAL ALIM IS IN ADEN. HUDAYAN SAID PDRY MIGHT RETURN ABDAL ALIM, AND NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT PDRY HAD PROVIDED NO RPT NO HELP TO ABDAL ALIM.

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4. HUDAYAN EXPECTS GHASHMI TO RETURN TO SANA TODAY BY WAY OF HODEIDAH AND TO ANNOUNCE GOVERNMENT ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. HE CLAIMS THAT ONLY IMPORTANT CHANGE WILL BE APPOINTMENT OF AHMAD AL-HAMDANI, U.S. PH.D. IN ECONOMICS, AS MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND, OF COURSE, SAID HUDAYAN WITH FAIRLY BROAD SMILE, IRYANI WON'T BE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

5. HUDAYAN INSISTS THAT HE ALSO EXPECTS YARG TO MOVE IN SERIES OF SMALL STEPS TO REDUCE, IF NOT ELIMINATE, SOVIET PRESENCE IN YEMEN. I WARNED HIM I DIDN'T THINK YEMENIS WOULD GO VERY FAR OR VERY FAST IN THIS DIRECTION, GIVEN DEVELOPMENTS IN HORN, AND I CITED FIRST-HAND REPORT BY SOVIETS THAT ALI SHAYBA'S VISIT TO MOSCOW HAD GUARANTEED CONTINUED PRESENCE OF 150-MAN SOVIET MILITARY MISSION IN EXCHANGE FOR MORE SHIPMENTS OF SPARE PARTS AND AMMUNITION, SOME OF WHICH HAD ALREADY ARRIVED. HUDAYAN SAID HE THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT UNDERSTOOD THAT YEMENIS DID NOT WANT TO CUT RELATIONSHIP ALTOGETHER OR REDUCE SOVIET PRESENCE TOO QUICKLY, BUT SAUDIS WOULD NEVERTHELESS GO AHEAD WITH BROADER FORMS

OF MILITARY SUPPORT FOR YAR WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT
YEMENIS WOULD BEGIN TO SQUEEZE RUSSIANS OUT OF
CERTAIN AREAS LIKE MILITARY COLLEGE AND AIR FORCE. IN
MEANTIME, HE SHRUGGED, SAUDIS WOULD LIVE WITH GESTURES
LIKE FOREIGN MINISTRY DELEGATION TO MOSCOW CONFERENCE
OF "AFRO-ASIA SOLIDARITY FRONT." SOVIET-EDUCATED DEPUTY
FOREIGN MINISTER AHMAD AL-HAIDAR WILL LEAD YEMENI
DELEGATION.

COMMENT: HUDAYAN'S EUPHORIA CONTRACTS HEARTEN-
INGLY WITH MORDANT MOOD OF ASNAJ. REAL PROOF OF
GHASHMI SUCCESS WILL BE NEW GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER.
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